



2 September 2014

The Hon M. Hamilton-Smith MP  
Minister for Veterans' Affairs  
GPO Box 2264  
ADELAIDE SA 5001

Reg	14MVA/88
File	
Ack	consideration
To	
Urgency	
Action	

Dear Minister

**Role of the Veterans Advisory Council**

The Premier recently announced that the State Government would be reviewing the role of all boards and councils which support the Government.

The Veterans Advisory Council (VAC) was established in 2008. It was a visionary move by the Government to back an initiative by the Returned & Services League to establish a body which could represent veterans' views and to ensure veterans' wellbeing.

The VAC has been admirably chaired by Sir Eric Neal and has established great credibility within the serving and ex-serving communities. Its functions range from commemoration to planning and policy advice. Quite apart from the enormous goodwill which would be undone by its cessation, given South Australia's significant role in the defence of this country, a focal point for the collection of the vast array of matters which affect veterans would be lost.

The Premier has described his vision for boards and councils as '... to give a broader range of organisations and individuals more direct access to government advisory and decision-making processes'. The VAC strongly supports this vision as the veterans' community, young and old, is a key and vital segment of our State.

I strongly support the retention of the VAC as a stand-alone body which can add considerable value to the South Australian community and which can provide important advice to the Government.

I would be pleased if you could represent the views of the Returned & Services League to the Premier in your discussion on this matter.

Yours sincerely

T.J. Hanna AM  
Brigadier  
State President  
Returned & Services League of Australia (South Australia Branch)

